(b) whether Government had received any request from NAFED to tide over their financial difficulties and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) The reasons for financial crisis of NAFED include non-recovery of dues under Public Private Partnership (PPP)/tie-up business, higher debt burden, higher interest liability and financial losses.

(b) NAFED has submitted a proposal to this Ministry for providing an interest free loan of Rs.2000 crore to tide over their financial difficulties arose due to tie-up business.

(c) NAFED is a national level Cooperative Marketing Federation, registered under Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 2002. NAFED has undertaken PPP/tie-up business on its own under its commercial activities, without any Government support. Presently, there is no budgetary provision to provide interest free loan to NAFED. However, as NAFED is the Central agency for procurement of oilseeds, pulses and cotton under Price Support Scheme (PSS), Government is providing Government guarantee for arranging working capital and reimbursing the losses to NAFED, if any, on account of undertaking Price Support operations.

Sowing of agricultural crops

†557.SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that agricultural crops have been sown on larger agricultural land of the country on 1st January, 2009 in comparison to 1st January, 2008;

(b) if so, the area of land on which wheat, pulses, oilseeds and paddy crops have been sown in both the said periods;

(c) whether there were such agricultural land available in the country on 1st January, 2009 and 1st January 2008, respectively, where sowing could not take place due to some reasons; and

(d) if so, the area of such land available during both the above said years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTIAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The area sown under agricultural crops in the country in the month of January pertains to crops sown during the Rabi season. The assessment of area coverage under various crops is done in the Ministry of Agriculture on weekly basis by Crop Weather Watch Group (CWWG). As per assessment in the meetings of CWWG, total area coverage under Rabi crops at all India level as on 2nd January 2009 was larger at 550.09 lakh hectares as compared to 525.79 lakh hectares in the corresponding period of 2008. The details of Rabi areas covered under wheat, rice/paddy, pulses and oilseeds as on 2nd January, 2009 *vis-a-vis* the corresponding period of 2008 are given in the table below:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(lakh hectares)

Crop	Area coverage during Rabi season	
	2007-08	2008-09
Wheat	262.14	262.66
Rice/Paddy	3.45	3.83
Pulses	120.72	128.80
Oilseeds	79.82	89.03

(c) and (d) Sowing of some of the Rabi crops also continues beyond 1st January. The details of normal area coverage (average of 2002-03 to 2006-07) at all India level under Rabi crops *vis-a-vis* areas covered under these crops as on 2nd January, 2009 and corresponding period of 2008 are as under:

(lakh hectares)

Normal area coverage under	Area coverage as on 2nd January	
Rabi crops	Rabi 2008-09	Rabi 2007-08
574.41	550.09	525.79

Floriculture promotion

558. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has taken various measures to promote floriculture in the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that there is a great demand of this commodity in foreign countries;

(c) if so, the details thereof, *inter-alia* indicating the export position of this commodity during the last three years; and

(d) whether its export has fallen down and if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Yes. Sir. The Government is implementing two Centrally Sponsored Schemes namely Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in North Eastern States, Sikkim, Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand (TMNE) and National Horticulture Mission (NHM) hi the remaining States for enhancing horticulture production including flowers by adopting end-to-end approach covering production, post harvest management, processing and marketing.

(c) The details of the export of flowers (Fresh, dried flowers, plants, bulbs, etc.) for the last three years is as follows:-

(Qty: MT)

Value in; Rs. Crores (Mill US$)

2005-06		2006-07		2007-08	
Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
42979.59	394.4	50649.36	774.29	46397.84	482.27
	(89.06)		(172.06)		(114.83)